

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 17, 1909, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. C.M.H.
(Washington, D. C.) Wed. 17, Nov. 1909. My dear Alec:

What do you think of the Western Union and Bell Telephone development? I guess it was a surprise to Charlie, when I telephoned he said he had written for particulars but believed it would be a good thing.

Do you see the American Review of Reviews? I think they might speak of you as well as Maxim and Langley. But there is one thing I note, they say Maxim's and Langley's were practical flying machines the only trouble was that the men were not trained to the "feel" of the air. Now that is precisely what would happen if you allowed any one else but a trained aviator to operate the Cygnet II.

I have bought the Corot for \$12000.00 please don't be aghast, you always say I may do as I like and this is from money that is coming to me. I felt that I should be always sorry if I didn't, for it is the handsomest thing in my Father's collection and as such represents him and my Mother better than anything else could do. I think I can always sell it for that amount. Papa paid four thousand dollars for it and refused an offer of ten thousand some years before his death. One expert from New York valued it at \$12000.00 and declared this a very conservative estimate, and he would not be surprised if we got from fifteen to eighteen thousand for it, while another said to let him have the refusal of it at eighteen thousand. It isn't quite certain I shall get it, but Grace won't take it and 2 she said she would rather I did than any of the others. Charlie says that he cannot tell what income I will get, but the minimum amount is six thousand, that seems very small for two hundred thousand, but apparently some of it yields no income, for instance the place here and the

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Moxee property. If we go around the world let's stop there. But please don't say anything about it because I haven't told Elsie or Bert.

There seems to have been quite a dramatic scene in the Geographic yesterday, Mr. Moore got mad when he found the whole Board was unanimous against him, he arose and said that as they seemed able to conduct the discussion without him he would go. Then as he put on his coat he returned to say that he had not meant to tie up things so that Mr. Grosvenor could not buy a photograph without his authority, but he did wish to have some authority to act while Mr. Grosvenor was away on his three months vacation, or was it four months this summer? He said as President he would like to be able sometimes to come into the building and have a letter written, as things now were he couldn't do it without Mr. Grosvenor's approval!

Lunch, so goodbye, Much love, Mabel.